

Customer No. 24498
Serial No. 10/531220

PU020449

Remarks/Arguments

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The Examiner has newly cited US Patent 4,484,295, to Bedard et al. The Examiner has asserted that it would be obvious to combine the subject matter of the newly cited reference with the subject matter of US patent 6,427,183 to Seidenberg, of record. The Examiner has implied that such combination would anticipate the invention defined by Claim 1 of the instant application. The Applicant can not agree.

Seidenberg shows a detection circuit (amplifier OP) which detects activity on bus S₀, and uses this information to control switch S₁, which controls the application of power to load DEV. Seidenberg provides an isolation transformer between the S₀ bus and load DEV, as explained in column 4, lines 11 to 13. However, nowhere does Seidenberg show or suggest an isolation transformer between the S₀ bus and the detector circuitry.

Bedard et al shows an isolation transformer 14, as part of interface circuit 12, between control circuit 10 and load 19, as explained in column 3, line 52. If the structure of Bedard et al were to be incorporated into the structure of Seidenberg, the relay of Seidenberg would be replaced by isolation transformer 14 of Bedard et al. Nowhere would the combined structure show or suggest:

"said communication sensing circuit comprising a transformer having a first winding coupled to said data bus and a second winding coupled to a first switching transistor";

as specifically set forth in Claim 1. Rather, the combined structure would have an isolation transformer at the output of the detection circuit, but not between the data bus and the detection circuit. It is therefore clear that,

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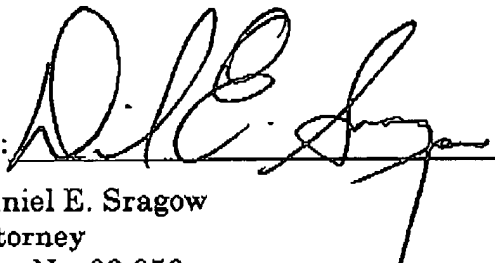
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even if the structures of the two references were to be combined, the patentability of Claim 1 would not be affected.

Claims 2 to 8 are dependent from Claim 1 and add further advantageous features. The Applicant submits that these subclaims are patentable as their parent Claim 1.

The Applicant submits that the instant application is in condition for allowance. The Applicant respectfully requests that the final rejection be withdrawn, and that a Notice of Allowance be issued.

Respectfully submitted,
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